

PORTICO.

T H E

Batchelor's Recantation.

Or, His ESTIMATE of the

EXPENCES

O F A

MARRIED LIFE

Re-consider'd *Paragraph* by *Paragraph*, and Retracted.

To which is added,

- I. His passionate Address to all Batchelors and Maidens.
- II. An old Maiden Lady's Advice to all young Ones. A
T A L E, (by a *Baronefs*.)
- III. A PRAYER to be used Daily by all spotless Virgins.
- IV. The *Doctor* confuted : Or, *No Cure for LOVE*.
- V. A young Lady's Recantation of her Resolution to
turn Nun.

Humbly Address'd to HENRY STONECASTLE, Esq; Author of
The UNIVERSAL SPECTATOR.

By JOHN SINGLE, of Grey's-Inn, Esq.

The SECOND EDITION.

L O N D O N :

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To Henry Stonecastle, Esq; Spectator-General.

Worthy Sir,

HAVING for many weighty Reasons, me thereunto moving, made and drawn up my Recantation, I thought myself indispensably obliged to publish it, that the Antidote might be as general as the Poyson diffused by my last Year's Estimate. But, indeed, I have delay'd it some Months for want of a proper Person to inscribe it to. Your Discourse of Saturday last, has not only hasten'd me to do it, for fear of falling under your Censure as an obstinate Batchelor, but has drawn on you this Trouble.

I presume, Sir, since I so readily join in your Sentiments, and submit to your Injunctions, you will not refuse the Protection due to one who fights under your Banner.

The Contempt of Matrimony in either Sex is big with the greatest Evils. It is a melancholy Consideration that Eight Hundred Thousand Females should lie uncultivated, and be reduced to petition your Assistance; no wonder the British Name is less terrible than formerly. The remedying this Defect, as you observe, would be a most popular Act, and be a Means to free the Administration from that unaccountable Noise and Clamour rais'd against them, restore the British Glory, and the Balance of Europe to our hands. As the warlike Nations of the Goths, Vandals, &c. indisputably ow'd their Numbers and Conquests to their prudent Management of the Women, so do we our Degeneracy to the luxurious, self-interested and unnatural Customs which now prevail.

The Wisdom of the Jewish Oeconomy was seen in excusing the new-married Men from the Wars the first Year, and that of the Romans, in encouraging the Fathers of a numerous Family, and loading their Batchelors with Offices and Fines. We have excellently improved upon the Antients, even to Debauchery and Effeminacy! So few enter into Matrimony in a State of Vigour, that our Race seems to be emasculated. 'Tis high time to put your Proposition in practice, and disqualify by a Law all unmarried Men from holding any Post of Trust, &c. or sitting in Parliament (for what Regard can they have for Posterity who are resolved to leave none behind 'em) and to put upon troublesome Offices, and fine 10 l. per Ann. all who shall remain Batchelors convict, after due Notice given; the said Fines to be disposed of to those who have the most numerous Offspring, or shall marry purely for Love. Certainly there never was more need of Encouragements to marry; nor can they be placed better than you have appointed.

The Clause for transferring the Right of Courtship, as forfeited, from the Men to the other Sex, after the first Day of May next, is founded on Justice, and will prevent a prodigious deal of Ceremony, so disagreeable to some Men, as to deter them from any Attempt that Way. I am extremely pleas'd with it, and hope it will facilitate my Addresses.

But to return to my Recantation; you'll perceive, Sir, it is writ in Answer to the Gentleman who made so agreeable an Offer as his Niece. I trust that it will be to his and your Satisfaction; and that in case Honestus should die, or not succeed, you'll admit me to wait on your Ward Annabella, being not excluded by the Conditions you propos'd.

I am, worshipful SIR, Yours, &c.

John Single.

R 66498



THE

Batchelor's Recantation


Of his ESTIMATE of the
Expences of a Marriage Life, &c.

Humbly inscrib'd to *Henry Stonecastle, Esq;* Author of
The Universal Spectator.

GRAYS-INN, *Valentine's Day*, Feb. 14. 1730-31.

To *** ** Esq;

S I R,

 Have at last maturely consider'd your *Answer* to my *Estimate of the Expences of a Marriage Life*, and happy had it been for me, had I consider'd sooner, for then there would have been no just Occasion for the following *Recantation*: But so it was, the Spirit of Infatuation had possess'd me, and 'twas owing to a Delirium my Levity had brought me into, that I made so wrong a Calculation.

I always persuaded myself, you were more attach'd to my Interest

than to take the least delight in seeing me labour under any Misfortune; but some Part of your *Answer* was prophetic; and I now heartily wish, that I had married your Niece with nothing but the many Charms and Graces Nature has bestow'd upon her.— But since 'tis too late, and she is now become the Wife of another (more deserving than myself) that the numerous Race of the Family of the *SINGLES*, may not do as I have done, and thereby run the Risque of being inevitably miserable, I hereby publicly revoke my former Estimate, and subjoin my Reasons for recanting the same, in each Particular.

My

My former *Estimate*, as now review'd, stands as follows :

You may remember, Sir, to the Proposal you made me, (for which I acknowledg'd the Obligation, because I am sure it proceeded from your good Opinion of me) I return'd the following Answer, *viz.*

You propos'd that I should marry your Relation with 2000 *l.* down ; it was indeed a handsome Fortune, and such, that I had the Modesty to say, I did not deserve, however, could not then accept of the Proposal, because the growing necessary Expences arose so frequently, and so falsely to my View, that I must own whenever I had Thoughts of Matrimony they (contrary to my Inclination) deterr'd me from entring into that agreeable State.

I.

I said, that I liv'd in Chambers, which cost me 12 *l.* 10 *s.* a Year, but when married I must take a House, which I could not have suitable to me and my Business under 50 *l.* which would be a Yearly Increase in House-Rent only, 37 *l.* 10 *s.*

*I confess I ought to retract this first Article, in as much as having a genteel Employment to carry on, 'tis fit the Situation of my Abode should be in a publick reputable Place, suitable to the Emergency of my Affairs, and what my Dealers and Correspondents look for : So that the Rent of 50 *l.* per Ann. for a House, where a discreet Wife is left in my Absence to manage its Affairs, is not so frightful an Increase, as I imagin'd : Besides the Reputation I shall bear among the more estimable Part of Mankind, I shall have the Consolation of being receiv'd with all the endearing Tenderesses of a Woman, whose sole Delight will be to soothe the Cares of Life, and to bear my Secrets in the Cabinet of her Breast. My House*

will then become a kind of a Palace to me, and I shall be, as it were, Lord of a little Common-wealth ; my Credit will rise in proportion ; my Burden be eas'd, and my own Share of it a pleasant Diversion. Nay, all the Felicities of a Marriage State, will add fresh Vigour to my Days, and a secret Satisfaction in doing what I am enjoin'd to by Divine and Natural Obligations.

II.

Church, Window and Poor's Taxes, with other necessary Rates, as a Parishioner ought to pay, I computed at 9 *l.*

As this is a very ridiculous Article, highly destructive to all Communities whatever ; I must revoke it, knowing for certain, that as nothing can preserve the Human Structure of a private Body, but a free Circulation of the Blood and Spirits, so in Bodies Politick, every Member should aid and assist each other, lest the Constitution in general languish and decay. Those Batchelors, therefore, who live in a State of Celibacy purely to save Charges, are like Caterpillars in a State, and ought to be fined according to their Circumstances, as Mr. Spectator proposes.

III.

Expences of Tea, Coffee, China, &c. yearly, I rated at 12 *l.*

The Wages for a Man and two Maid-Servants, &c. above what I paid my Bedmaker, 17 *l.* 10 *s.*

Coach and Chair-Hire for my Wife to make Visits, &c. with Expences attending her Diversions, 7 *l.*

The preceding Articles, as they are Discretionary, so they may be more or less, in proportion to the extravagant or frugal Temper either of Husband or Wife ; wherefore I throw them aside, as not justly to be insisted upon.

IV.

I said, I visited the Play-house about once a Year, and in Complaisance to my

my Wife, must wait on her, and partake of those Diversions, (it not being proper she should go alone) which I moderately computed at 11. 10 s.

And who can I wait on better, or with more Safety, than my Spouse, who best deserves such an Expence? I own it therefore necessary, that Husband and Wife should divert themselves Abroad sometimes, as Business will permit; assuring myself, that a Woman of Virtue (such a one as your Relation is) would not any ways appear chagrin at her Husband's accompanying her to such Places where there may be a Possibility of meeting with Intruders upon her Virtue.

V.

I added for Coals, Candles, &c. an additional Expence of 13 l. per Ann.

Be it so; I am now contented it should — A Batchelor's Fire is like a wooing Light, hardly to be seen or felt; the older he grows, the fainter it burns: Therefore since Fire and Candles are very comfortable and necessary Articles in a Family, and that an Englishman's Fire is as good as a Frenchman's Feast, I own myself in an Error for inserting them in my Estimate.

VI.

I computed my Wife's necessary wearing Apparel at 30 l. yearly.

With a great deal of Justice, I confess, I ought to be lampoon'd for this unnecessary Article: what! a Crown, and no Jewels in it? An Orb without Light; a Sun without Rays! a Ship without Rigging! — Alas! 30 l. per. Annum ought not to be held in Competition with the many blooming Charms and Graces of a tender, loving, and virtuous Wife: and tho' all the Riches of the Indies can't add to her Worth, yet a Husband that has a true Value for such a Wife, will not think much of seeing her decorated with Apparel,

becoming her Station; therefore I now alter my Opinion as to this Article, and think it highly necessary, for my Reputation Sake, and to demonstrate the Esteem I have for a good Wife, that there shall be nothing wanting in her necessary Apparel.

VII.

I intimated, That it cost me 25 l. a Year in Dinners, and apprehended, that by the additional Charge of a Family, my Expences wou'd be increas'd, and I should have the following yearly Bills to pay, viz.

The Butcher, 35 l. Poulterer, 10 l.
Fishmonger, 6 l. Herb-woman 7 l.
The Oylman, 5 l. The Baker, 8 l.
The Brewer, 10 l. Grocer, 6 l.
Confectioner, 6 l. Cheesemonger 4 l.
Wine, Cyder, &c. at about 30 l.
Fruiterer and Milk-woman, 2 l. 10 s.
Salt, Small-Coal, Oatmeal, &c. 2 l.

These Bills added to the former Items will make the whole Sum 255 l. so that deducting thereout the 25 l. being the Charge of my Dinners, there will be a necessary additional Expence of 250 l. per Ann.

To which I added a supposititious Article for Presents of Rings, Jewels, Snuff-Boxes, Tweezers, and Knick-knacks, 5 l.

As for these new Articles, which I frighten'd myself with, there is nothing in them so terrible as my first cursory Reflections form'd in my Imagination. I allow there is an additional Expence, but methinks the Consideration that it is so, should be so far from giving me any Uneasiness, that I should conceive a real Pleasure in being reckon'd a Man of more extensive Usefulness, and a better Member of Society than I could possibly be in a single Life — — — More Hands would

be employ'd by the Increase of my Family, a greater consumption of Manufactures, and something more added to the King's Revenues. No doubt but there is some Satisfaction in being plac'd at the Head of a little Society, every Member whereof is under my Direction, subject to my Authority, and owe me Obedience. Besides, what Enjoyment has a Batchelor in boarding up his Money? His Riches are of no Use to himself, nor of any Service to the Publick: He may indeed endeavour to perpetuate his Name by recommending it to the Care of his Executors to repair Churches, build Hospitals, and lay out his Wealth in Acts of Charity and Benevolence; but how often are such Charities misapplied, the Will of the Donor misunderstood, or inverted; and even supposing a just Management, and a right Application of the Whole, yet how common is the Reflection on such Occasions, He gave it because he could keep it no longer?---We are mightily oblig'd to him for his Benevolence, for could he have made any Use of it himself, we should not have finger'd a single *Sous*

The imaginary Article of Presents, if my Wife pleas'd me, is ridiculous. What absurd Notions, what whimsical Ideas do we, who have no Experience of the agreeable and refined Gratifications of a married Life, form to ourselves of that State! We make no Difference, no Distinction between a Wife and a Mistress; betwixt one who values herself upon no other Excellence but of Love, Good-humour, and Complacency to us, and one whose Devotion to our Humours or Caresses, ariseth from no other Principle but that of Avarice. Can I grudge to bestow the best Distinctions of my Favours on one who is continually endearing herself to me in the tenderest Expressions of Love and Offices of Goodness? Sure it would be an Act of Injustice

in me, to reckon my extraordinary Favours to her, which her Merits so justly claim at my Hands, as Presents or Gifts which she would have no Title to but from my Generosity. How much more reasonable is such a Bill, if it exceeded ten times the Sum, than a Bill which I had an accidental View of in a Brother-Bachelor's Hands, and which for the Rarity of its Contents, and my own further Conviction I have transcribed, and is as follows:

- To Mrs. Isabella Stitch Sempstres, per Annum, 53 l.
- To Joan Sudds, the Laundress, 14 l. p. Ann.
- To a Composition with the Church-wardens and Overseers of St. Andrew's Parish 12 l.
- To a Treat for Ditto, 2 l. 2 s.
- To Mr. Silence the Surgeon, 24 l.
- To private Lodgings, 6 l. per Annum.
- To Jenny Finder, partly Charity, 4 l.
- To Epsom Waters, &c. 3 l.
- To Vermicelly, Spirit of Clary, &c. 3 l.
- To occasional Gratuities to Maid-Servants, 2 l.
- To sauntering at Coffee-houses, and Loss at Play, for want of Company to come home to, 49 l.
- To Gilt Paper, pens, and Sealing-Wax, for Billet-Deux, 1 l.
- To C--l, for the Use of, *The Kisses of Secundus, The Nun in her Smock*; &c. 4 l.
- To Mr. Fingle, for a Copy of Verses to my Mistress, to which by the Poet's Consent I was to put my Name; and to Dinners and Suppers for correcting, amending, and lengthening the said Verses, 4 l. 12 s.
- To extraordinary Expences in Cloaths on foolish Designs, 15 l.
- To W--s, and other reforming Constables, 8 l. 8 s.
- To addressing among others, the handsome Widow near Temple-Bar, with no other Design than to be talk'd of, 10 l.

In all, 218 l. 10 s.

XI.

Tho' I left out some of the above-named Articles in my *Estimate*, I did not forget the Family Charge of a Doctor and Apothecary, whose Bills I computed at 5 l. per Ann.

I am really asham'd of this Article. How is it possible I could forget myself, the variableness of my own Constitution, and the Frailty of human Nature? Sad and woful Experience has since taught me how satisfactory and agreeable the assiduous Care and faithful Assistance of a loving and tender Wife must be in Times of Pains and Sickness. It is impossible to express how much I have suffer'd in the want of such a Partner, such a Comforter in my Affliction. How have I been teaz'd, fatigued, and worried almost to Death, with voracious and mercenary Nurses, the extravagant Profuseness of unfaithful Servants, and the Avarice of expecting Relations, who flock about a dying Man, like Crows hovering over an expiring Sheep. My Concerns in the World have either stood still, or gone quite retrograde, thro' the Mismanagement or Unskilfulness of those whom I have appointed to take Care of them; and which would not have happen'd had they been under the Inspection of one whose Interest wou'd be inseparable from my Prosperity.

X.

I continued my Calculation of the Expences of a married Life, by instancing the Increase of my Charge by the Increase of my Family, from the Office of the Midwife to the Correction of the School-master.

But have I no Business in the World besides Eating, Drinking, Sleeping, and amassing of Wealth? Did the wise Governour of the Universe, who has appointed every thing, both living and inanimate, to some Purpose or other, send me of no Errand? Must I stand a Cypher in the Creation? There's not a Species of Creatures in the Brute World but what is obedient to the universal Law of Propagation. Nature demands it of us who stile ourselves

rational Beings, as well as the written Institute of our sovereign Law-giver, which expressly says, Increase and multiply. Marriage was ordain'd for many valuable Ends; not so much to gratify the Intemperance of Lust, as the Increase of our Species, the mutual Felicity of Man and Wife, and the harmonious Order of Civil Society in general. I will therefore no longer withstand Conviction so glaring and evident, but submit to the Dictates of Nature and Reason, and conform my future Behaviour to the present Sense which I have of my Duty.

VIII.

I summ'd up my Estimate with the Charge of a Pew in the Church, Washing, Mops, Brooms, the Furniture of my House, which, together with all the aforesaid Expences, would reduce my Wife's Fortune of 2000 l. to 1650 l, which at 5 l. per Cent. is but 82 l. 10 s. Nay, I supposed the Interest to sink to 4 per Cent. which would then be no more than 66 l. per Annum. So that I inferr'd from thence, that I should be guilty of great Indiscretion in marrying a Woman with that Fortune you propos'd, and therefore fix'd my Resolution to remain a Bachelor till I could have a better Prospect.

I am now of another Mind, and must own, that I shall not only have an equal Share of what is laid out in the Furniture of my House, when married, but be recommended to the more reputable Part of Mankind, in having a substantial Settlement in the World, whereby I shall be deem'd a good Subject, a useful Friend, and a Man of Virtue and Probity. My Alliances to Families of Merit and Distinction, will enhance my Business, and consequently my Income; and the Increase of my Family will be the conveying my Name to latest Posterity. So that every Circumstance in a married Life, with prudent

dent Management, would sit easy upon me, and the Pleasures of a Nuptial Bed be a sufficient Equivalent for the Expences I should have been at, provided I had married your Neice, who now blesses the Arms of one more deserving than myself.

I therefore will conclude this Recantation, with those immortal Lines of the sublime Milton, and with which you clos'd your Answer to my Estimate, wishing they were applicable to my State, and resolving to take the first Opportunity of making them so, viz.

Hail wedded Love ! mysterious Law ! true
Source

Of human Offspring ! sole Propriety,
In Paradise, of all Things common else !
By thee Adult'rous Lust was driv'n from
Man

Among the Bestial Herds to range. By thee
Founded in Reason, loyal, just and pure ;
Relation dear ; and all the Charities
Of Father, Son, and Brother, first were
known !

Perpetual Fountain of Domestick Sweets !
Here Love his golden Shafts employs ; here
lights

His constant Lamp, and waves his purple
Wings ;

Here reigns and revels-----

And with these from Mr. Dryden,

When fix'd to one, Love safe at Anchor
rides,

And dares the Fury of the Winds and Tides ;
But losing once that Hold, to the wide
Ocean borne,

It drives away at Will, to ev'ry Wave a
Scorn.

Address to the Batchelors.

And now, Gentlemen Batchelors,
give me Leave to expostulate with
you as Friends and Brethren. Let
Ignorance give Place to Conviction,
and let your Conversion be the happy
Consequence of Arguments so plain
and convincing, so powerful and co-

gent as these which have so effectually
wrought a Change in my Notions.
Be persuaded by Reason, and submit
to Demonstration : Humble your
stubborn Necks, and receive the silken
Reins of gentle Love. Were you but
sensible of the exquisite Pleasure there
is in contemplating the Charms of
Beauty, when we know ourselves to
be in full Possession thereof, without
any Dread or Apprehension of its
being violated in our Arms, or forced
from our Embraces. Did you but
once feel the chaste Endearments of
a kind and tender Wife, you would
quickly renounce your heterodox No-
tions of the Sex, and instead of rack-
ing your Inventions, and torturing
the harmless Meaning of Authors for
Matter of Scandal and Abuse, you
would apply yourselves to the more
agreeable Labour of studying their
Excellencies, and the best Ways and
Means of recommending yourselves
to their Favour and smiling Appro-
bation.

As to the other Sex, I did not in-
tend to offer any thing Publickly ; be-
cause such a Number of them appear,
by their Petition to Mr. *Spectator* Ge-
neral, thoroughly inclinable to the
Married state, (I wish my choice may
prove so) but recollecting that there
was one *Tristitia Stale* mentioned by
Mr. *Spectator* in his Paper Jan 23.
as valuing herself on the Character of
a Nun or a *Vestal*, and that there are
many more of so weak a Disposition as
to prefer their Liberty, as they call it,
to the Duty incumbent on them, and
the present Triumph in their Charms,
to their future peace of mind ; I shall
make bold to leave to the consideration
of such, some little Pieces I have
pickt up, ready done to my hands,
which seem very *a propos* to the Sub-
ject, (and my Printer informing me
there will be a spare Page or two, for
them)

A passionate Address to all young Maidens.
A SONG.

I.

THINK, lovely Lasses,
How swiftly Time passes,
And sweeps away Charms as so many Trifles,
Beauty's Utensils,
Cosmetics and Pencils,
Can never repair the Bloom that he rifles.

II.

While you are Coquetting,
To keep the Swain fretting,
Time steals off the Grace that makes the
bright Vision ;
Then the Swain cooling,
Upbraids your vain fooling,
And you in return are reduc'd to Petition.

III.

Tho' patched and flaunting,
False Youth you are vaunting,
Your frippery Charms but move some arch
Joker ;

Spight of soft Twinkles,
He'll swear by your Wrinkles,
A grey frouzy Belle is a scurvy Provoker.

IV.

Youth keeps the Treasures
Must purchase Love's Pleasures ;
But when of its Store rude Time shall be-
reave ye,
Beggar'd old Misses
Turn Mumpers for Kisses ;
You'll haunt the coy Swains, but none will
relieve ye.

V.

Think on your Figure,
Disrob'd by Time's Rigour,
When those you once charm'd, will dread
to come near ye ;
Then to preach Lectures,
As Virgin Protectors,
On faithless Mankind, to Nymphs that will
jeer ye.

VI.

Inwardly craving,
But outwardly raving,
What hopes of Repose, but in your strong
Garters ;

Death, who's not sparing
To feed upon Carrion,
Is the only Gallant that will then give you
Quarters.

VII.

But if, in Despite,
He leave ye some Respite,
You have but one Chance to move pitiful
Sadness ;
When sore affected,
At Fondness neglected,
You live to repent your past Folly in Mad-
ness.

VIII.

Chloe, take Warning,
And waste not thy Morning,
For then, only then, thy Love can delight
us ;
Those blooming Graces
We court to Embraces,
At Noon will disgust, at Night will af-
fright us.

IX.

So the fresh Roses,
Aurora discloses ;
How fragrant, how fine, if then they be
gather'd,
But if neglected,
By Sun-beams infected,
How languid at Noon ! at Sunset how wi-
ther'd !

*An Old Maiden Lady's Advice to all
young Ones. A T A L E, (by a
Baroness.)*

AS *Chloris* on her downey Pillow lay
'Twixt Sleep and Wake, the Morning slid away,
Soft at her Chamber Door a Tap she heard,
She listen'd, and again, no one appear'd :
Whose there the sprightly Nymph with Courage cries,
" Madam, 'tis one who for your Lad'ship dies "
Sure 'tis Destruction ! What ! a dying Lover !
What is't you say ? once more repeat it over.
A second Time these Accents fill'd her Ear ;
Sweet was the Sound, transported was the Fair.
At length Mankind are just, her Ladyship said,
Threw on her Gown, then slipt out of her Bed ;
Look't in her Glass, confess him in the right.
Who thinks me not a Beauty, 'tis mere Spight.

Assemble ye Coquets, with Envy burn
To see the Wonders which my Eyes have done :
In vain your pert and forward Airs you try,
Mankind the more you court, the further fly ;
And 'tis for me, and only me, they dye.

But how shall I receive him? cry'd the Dame :
Prudence allows not Pity ;— I must blame :
Perhaps, poor Soul ! he's sigh'd in secret long
'Ere that presumptuous Thought fell from his Tongue :
I am the Cause, yet innocent by Heaven !
Why were these Eyes for such Destruction given ?
'Tis not my Fault ; I did not make one Feature ;
Then turn'd, and look'd to view the dying Creature ;
But ah ! who should th' enamour'd Swain now prove ?
A wretch who dy'd by Trade, and not for Love !
No mortal Pen can figure her Surprise ;
Wishing to trust her Ears, but not her Eyes :
The approaching Storm her swelling Bosom show'd ,
A while now Pale, then Red with Anger glow'd .
She wept, she rav'd, invok'd the Powers above,
Who give no Ease, when old Maids talk of Love ;
Fruitless her Prayers, and impotent her Rage,
Yet fierce as when two Females do engage.
At length the Fire was spent, all was serene,

And thus she spoke, —

Ye blooming Maids, let my Example prove,
How oft your Sex mistaken are in Love ;
When Young we're cruel, and with Beauty play,
Which, while we vainly parley, fades away.
When old, encrease the Rigours of our Fate,
We wish, and talk of Lovers, when too late :
As loit'ring Travellers who've lost the Day,
And hope in Nights rough shades to find their Way,
Forlorn they tread the dreary Paths in vain ;
Not of themselves, but their hard Fate complain.
So peevish Maids, when past their youthful bloom,
On sad remains and fancy'd Charms presume,
Lonely they wander, no Companion find,
Then rail and quarrel with all humane kind.
But let us to ourselves for once be just,
And see our own Decays, and Wrinkles first.
Whene'er to melting Sighs we lend an Ear,
Think Youth and Beauty make the Men sincere :
No other Powers their stubborn Hearts can move,
Did ever Virtue light the Torch of Love ?
From sad experience I this Truth declare,
I'm now abandon'd, tho' I once was fair.

I conceive this Lady would not have been reduc'd to such an abandon'd State, if instead of priding herself in the Vanity of her Beauty, splendid Dress, and a Train of Admirers, (which by the by, with the present fashionable ways of Courtship * and expected Flattery, gave me always the strongest Aversion to a close Alliance with the Sex) she had really consider'd the end she was made for, and Daily made use of the following Prayer. — It is translated from an old *Saxon* Book of Devotions, and was no doubt drawn up by some Pious Prelates, and directed to be used by the Virgins of those Days, when Modesty was not disguised by Art, and Sincerity in declaring their natural Sentiments, was a Virtue they were not ashamed of. In this Book is also a Prayer for all chaste Bachelors, much of the same kind ; one may suffice to shew the Primitive Practice.

*A Prayer to be used daily by
young Virgins.*

O LORD, who art infinite in Power and Purity, and delightest to assist the Chaste and Innocent, look down with an Eye of Compassion on me a Virgin immaculate. Thou knowest, Lord, with what Care and Caution I have withstood the soft Insinuations of wanton Men, and the too too pressing Forwardness of a pitying Nature : How oft have I restrained this curious Eye, and check'd the fond Heavings of this tender Bosom ? Is there a Passion incident to Youth that I have not mortified, or a
gay

* With Submission to Mr *Spectator*, if he would please to enquire into the Effects of this Conduct, I presume he'll find that some of his Female Petitioners are neglected on account of their own behaviour, and therefore beg he'll take that Topic under Consideration, and lay a fine on such Delinquents, as well as on Bachelors Convict.

gay Desire that I have not withstood ? The Lusts of the Flesh have I abhorr'd, and the Laws of Chastity have been my Delight. But we are taught that thou hast not made any thing in vain ; nor is there a useless Superfluity in all thy Works : To what End then were these Beauties given ; and whereto tend these soft Emotions ? Are those never to be enjoy'd, and these always to be stifled ? Sure in thine own good Time thou wilt send Relief : And when thou hast try'd me, thou wilt have Mercy. Incessantly then will I pray and cry unto thee, How long ! how long ! when shall I be released from these daily Strugglings, and enjoy the blest Fruits of this my Warfare ? Oh ! send me what I am by Nature formed for, that I may answer the End of my Creation in Fear and Hope ; in Fear of thee and thy Commandment, and in hope of being made a joyful Mother to thy Praise, and the full Content of me thy Servant. Finally, Let me be as a Crown to the Husband thou shalt be pleas'd to bestow upon me, so that he may glory in me, and not be ashamed.

I can't conclude without taking Notice of my being rallied one Evening at our Club, upon a discovery of my Change of Sentiments, and that next morning a bantering Letter was sent me with the following *Recipe* inclosed,

To JOHN SINGLE of Grays Inn, Esq;

A Cure for Love.

Read, Try, and Judge,

Take Eight Ounces of *Consideration*, half the quantity of *Indifference*, Ten Grains of *Ingratitude*, a Pound of *Patience*, a small Sprig of *Rue*, Two good Handfulls of *Employment*, Four Months *Absence*, mix it with the constant Conversation of a *Rival*. To this you may add as much *Discretion* as Nature has allotted you. Then boil all together without Interruption, till a third part be consumed, cooling it with a few *Slights* ; spread that

on the Thoughts of your Mistress's *Imperfections*. Then apply the Plaister lukewarm to the Heart, and before not to take it off till it comes off it self, and if this does not prove successful, read seriously your own *Batchelor's Estimate*.

Not knowing who this Friend that takes upon him to be my *Physician*, is, I here return him the following

Answer.

AH ! kind Physician, thy *Receipt* will prove
Of little service to thy Friend in Love ;
When e'er *Consideration* I employ,
New Beauties in the Charmer I descry :
To all *Perfection* she hath just pretence,
And thaws my Soul from cold *Indifference*.
Ingratitude's a Guilt she does not know,
She thanks the Heav'n's for blessings they bestow ;
She other Obligations never knew,
For all the Earth affords is but her due.
Speak *Patience* to the wretch upon the wheel,
He knows no Torment like the Pangs I feel.
No *Rue* apply'd can e'er my Pain remove,
There is no Cure, alas ! in Herbs for Love. *
Employment has my Peace of Mind destroy'd,
For 'tis on her my Thoughts are all employ'd.
To little Passions *Absence* gives a Cure,
To great ones adds, and makes 'em to endure.
So Wind puts out the Candles glimmering Light,
And makes the raging Furnace shine more Bright.
Each Place produces *Rivals* to my view,
She but appears, and she creates them new.
In vain like me her favours they implore ;
I am her Slave with many Thousands more ;
But sure where Numbers in Opinion meet,
To act as they do is to be *Discreet*.
For *Imperfections* wou'd you search the Fair,
Find spots on Ermine, tinge the ambient Air.
Teach me the art to be no more her slave,
And write thy Skill upon the restless wave ;
All these you must perform e'er I can find,
Faults in her Person, *Blemish* in her Mind.
My *Estimate* I have maturely scann'd,
And chang'd Opinion on the better hand.
I am

* *Hei mihi quod nullis Amor est medicabilis herbis !* Ov.

I am aware that some of my old Companions suspect the Sincerity of my *Recantation* ; but I must call in question the Candour of such a Procedure, when they could so readily believe the *Recantation* made by a young Lady the next morning after she had promised a Relation to lead a Recluse Life, contained in the following Verses, which were written by herself, and produced at our Club, as a *Reflection* on the frailty of *female Vows* ; but I appeal to Mr *Spectator*, that instead of deserving such a hard Censure, it is a commendable Act, to relinquish any Principles so destructive of the Public Weal, as he hath made *Celibacy* appear to be.

*A young Lady's Recantation
of her Vow to turn Nun.*

I.

ALL Compliance apart,
A I examin'd my Heart
Last Night, when I laid me to Rest ;
And methinks I'm inclin'd
To alter my Mind ;
For you know second Thoughts are the best.

II.

To retire from the Crowd,
And make ourselves good,
By avoiding all Kinds of Temptation ;
'Tis in truth to reveal
What we'd better conceal,
That our Passions want some Régulation.

III.

It will better redound
To our Praise, to be found
In a World so abounding with Evil,
Unpolluted, and pure,
Tho' not so demure,
As to wage open war with the Devil.

IV.

So bidding Farewel
To all Thoughts of a Cell,
I prepare for a militant Life ;
And when brought to Distress,
O then I'll confess,
And do Penance in Form of a *Wife*.

F I N I S.



